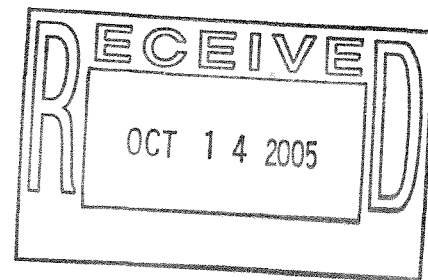


Christine Joyce

From: Duncan Thorne [duncanthorne@excite.com]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2005 10:45 AM
To: Christine Joyce
Subject: daniala's cantina

10/17 (12)



Geraldo's.doc (31
KB)

Hi Christine

Attached is my statemant about Geraldo Miranda/Daniala's cantina. Please see that the selectmen get to read it. If you have trouble accessing it please call me at 978 461 1731.

Thanks Duncan Thorne

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To whom it may concern:

My name is Duncan Thorne. I'm a designer and builder and live in Stow. I've done a hand full of building projects in Acton, and as the building officials in Acton can attest to I've always been a builder who doesn't cut corners; everything I do is up to snuff. I met Geraldo Miranda while building a project on School St. in Acton . I'd frequent his tacorito for numerous lunches. He was always behind the grill with a smile.

In 2002 I remodeled his restaurant and got to know him quite well. I remodeled his restaurant in 40 days. I don't think Geraldo was absent for more than an hour for the entire project. He worked by my side everyday. I've been a builder for twelve years and have never run across someone with so much drive for hard work. He would often spend 12 hours a day working. In addition, he brought me a home made lunch every single day. I can't say I have ever had an American client be so generous.

During the course of the project something started happening that was very disturbing. I would stop in at local building yards, hardware stores and various places and in the course of conversation I would explain who I was working for and I always got the same response. Something like "Oh, be careful, he's that guy who burnt down that building in Maynard or he's a crook". I'd say where'd you here that. They'd say it was in the paper everybody knows."

From my experience I can see Geraldo has been the victim of outrageous racism followed by rampant inaccurate rumors and innuendo which continues to haunt him for years. Being a builder I have employed many foreign labors. A couple years ago I had two black guys from Senegal working as laborers for me. They were dream employees. They didn't drink or smoke it was against their religion they worked hard and never missed a day for a short time I sublet a room to these guys in Stow. They had legal working visas and valid international driver's licenses. On two different occasions while driving through Maynard, they were pulled over by the Maynard police for no apparent reason. The police wouldn't except their driver's licensees as valid, impounded their car and on one occasion when ask where they lived and they responded Stow, the officer responded by saying quote 'you can't live in Stow black guys don't live in Stow.' My model employees soon moved away too NYC a place as strange as it might seem much more friendly to foreigners. This makes me embarased and ashamed of the area I live in. This is the same police force that investigated Geraldo Miranda for supposedly burning down a building in Maynard he didn't own and stood nothing to gain by.

I have never heard anything negative about the police in Acton, but I do question why there is often a cruiser lurking around the corner from his restaurant. I fear that some people have bought into racist rumors about Geraldo and his success. His success which has been founded, as his large and loyal customer base know, by a friendly welcoming attitude at is family based restaurant and tireless hard work.

If Geraldo looses his liquor license based on two incidences which seem to have been completely impossible for him to control, I think it would be completely unfair. His

restaurant is always filled with local families. I've seen Geraldo shut people off you seem drunk and I know he and his staff take that responsibility seriously.

I urge any one who is present and likes Geraldo's restaurant and know his friendly responsible hard working nature to stand up and express it, so it is known.

And, I urge those of you who are making a decision in this matter, to look into your hearts and erase any preconceived notions that might exist and recognize what Geraldo Miranda has given Acton, Which is a warm comfortable and vibrant meeting place for the community to interact. Places of this quality are very rare. Please don't drive him out of Acton.

Thank you for listening.